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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM American Embassy, Moscow

133
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August 19, 1960
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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

of liberty."*

1. Powers Trial: The Powers trial concluded today with the U-2 pilot's being sentenced to 10 years deprivation of liberty."* Soviet law provides for a long prison sentence or even the death sentence for espionage. However, there was expectation, based on statements to members of the Powers family made by the Soviet-appointed defense lawyer, that the sentence might be mitigated by the Soviet Government as an act of clemency. There is abundant evidence in Soviet propaganda treatment of the trial thus far to indicate that Moscow will attempt to capitalize on the fact that Powers will not be executed in contrast to earlier executions of several major Soviet spies in the West. The Soviets then can exploit the trial as an example of the value placed on the individual in a socialist society, while simultaneously pursuing other propaganda objectives such as: the appeal for vigilance in dealing with foreigners within the bloc, the attempt to isolate the United States in a non-communist world through emphasis on US "aggressive policy," and the effort to establish the image of Soviet military superiority.

Initial comment in Soviet public media on the trial has emphasized the following points: (1) Invisible defendant at the trial was the U. S. Administration. (2) The trial was conducted in a solemn judicial atmosphere. This is testified by numerous foreign jurists who have attended the trial and who have issued statements praising the "humaness, correctness, and justice" of the court proceedings, (3) Powers' guilt has been corroborated by actions of the world public after the U-2 incident, such as the alleged hissing at Eisenhower in the streets of Paris, the overthrow of Synman Rhee, and the cancellation of the President's visit to Japan. (4) Ridicule of charges that Powers was brainwashed before the trial. (5) The trial is not only a condemnation of US policy but also discloses the rotteness of the American system. Powers was driven to crime not by patriotic motives, but by mercenary considerations. In America, everything is traded for money, including life, honor and conscience. (6) Powers testified that the U-2 was shot down at 68,000 feet, thus proving the Soviet contention that Soviet rockets can reach that altitude and supporting Soviet claims that their anti-aircraft capability has neutralized the US strategic bomber forces and demonstrating Soviet military superiority.

2. Sino-Soviet Relations: Press reports that Soviet specialists are leaving Communist China in large numbers and Chicom students are leaving the USSR touched off new speculation about a rift between Peiping and Moscow. The Embassy has been unable to substantiate whether these reports represent anything beyond seasonal personnel movements. However, the failure of the Chicoms to attend the Orientalist Congress in Moscow and the suspension of circulation here of the Russian language Chicom publication Druzhba suggest that Sino-Soviet differences which have been evident for some time in the ideological debates are now being expressed in tangible form. While some recent Chicom actions suggest softer tactics in foreign relations, Soviet spokesmen continue to criticize sharply dogmatism and other deviations which are generally assumed to be directed at Peiping.

(* of which first three must be imprisonment.)

3. Orientalist Congress (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): The Orientalist Congress concluded on August 16 and the approximately 1,000 foreign guests have now left the Soviet Union or are taking side trips to Central Asia or Leningrad. Western scholars were resentful over the rejection of the US invitation to hold the next Congress in 1963 in New York. The selection of New Delhi was maneuvered by the Soviets through their control of Congress machinery. Some non-communist scholars were surprised and most were resentful about the Soviet emphasis on politics at the Congress.

4. Soviet-Japanese Relations (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): A number of prominent Japanese visited Moscow in connection with the opening of the Japanese Trade Fair. The senior Japanese official present, Foreign Trade Minister Ishii, took advantage of his visit to sound Moscow out on possibilities for expanding trade. In an interview with A.I.Mikoyan, as reported by the Soviet press, it appeared that there is no change in the Soviet demand that the Japanese annul the US-Japanese security treaty and disrupt US-Japanese friendly relations as the price for an improvement of official Soviet-Japanese relations. However, despite the indication of continued coolness in official relations, both Mikoyan and Ishii expressed interest in expanding trade and developing cultural contacts. Also, in a separate interview with Mikoyan, M. Nahara, described by the Soviet press as a representative of Japanese business circles, expressed support for conducting Soviet-Japanese relations on the basis of "peaceful coexistence." Nahara conveyed an invitation on behalf of the Japan-Soviet Society for Khrushchev to visit Japan, where it was claimed he would be greeted by all the Japanese people.

5. Congo and Hammarskjold (OFFICIAL USE ONLY): The Soviet press sharply attacked Hammarskjold for his efforts to channel foreign assistance to the Congo through the UN. The Soviet press charged that Hammarskjold is playing the imperialist game and is betraying the interests of the Congolese people. News coverage of recent events in Katanga and the Congo was relatively light in the Soviet press, suggesting that the Soviets have difficulty in deciding on how to exploit the Congo situation to the disadvantage of the West without at the same time antagonizing neutralist countries in Asia and Africa.

INTERNAL (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

6. Leadership: Despite several local rumors to the contrary, it appears that N. S. Khrushchev remains on vacation in the Crimea. The press has reported two physical appearances this week of the premier -- on August 16 when with his family, he greeted French CP leader M. Thorez at Yalta as the latter arrived there by boat from Odessa, and again on August 18 in Yalta where he is reported to have received the Iranian charge d' affaires. Since the opening of the Hungarian Exhibition in Moscow August 12 with the attendance of A.B.Aristov, L.I.Brezhnev, O.V.Kuusinen, A.I.Mikoyan (speaker) and M.A.Suslov, only Mikoyan, Suslov and P.N. Pospelov have been reported as having participated in more than a single function. All three of these were at the North Korean Embassy reception August 15 (at which Suslov spoke).

At least half of the Moscow resident Party Presidium members, including Brezhnev, F. R. Kozlov and A. N. Kosygin, seem to be out of town, possibly on vacation. It is perhaps only in this context that the frequent representational appearances of deputy premier and Gosplan Chairman V.N.Novikov have brought him into a more prominant public position than usual.

7. Moscow Increases Its Borders: (UNCLASSIFIED) In two complimentary decrees dated August 18 (published today), the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet announced a new program for the further growth of the city of Moscow. If implemented fully, the following changes are called for:

1) Incorporation of surrounding areas by the city of Moscow to more than double the present area of the city — creating a garden belt outside the Moscow ring or circular highway which will now mark the outer limits for construction in metropolitan Moscow. Incorporated populated areas such as Babushkin, Kuntsevo, Lyublino, Perovo, Tushino and others will be subordinated to the Moscow City Soviet.

2) The city will be reorganized into 22 raions (previously 20). Four of these will be in the heart of the city, 13 will cut the rest of the built-up or metropolitan area into pie-shapes, and 5 new raions will be created in the newly incorporated wooded-park belt ringing the circular highway. The new boundaries of greater Moscow will enclose 87,500 hectares (the Soviet commentary points out that N.Y.C. has an area of 81,600 hectares.)

The publication of the decrees was accompanied by journalistic sketches of parks, construction and transport developments giving idyllic views of an attractive city to take form within 5-6 years. It is said that the new organization should make construction planning easier in the city, eliminate multiple authorities in the center of the city and make it possible for each raion to have its own main street complete with square and parks.

8. Palgunov Replaced as TASS Director. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY). N. G. Palgunov, Director of the Telegraph Agency of the Soviet Union (TASS) has left these duties "because of health." According to Moskovskaya Pravda of August 16, D. P. Goryunov will take over as Director. It was not announced whether Palgunov's other positions as chairman of the Union of Soviet Journalists or membership in the CPSU Central Auditing Committee are affected.

9. Celebration of Aviation Day: (OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Speeches and published articles by military personages in honor of Soviet Aviation Day August 18 were relatively more restrained than might have been expected in the midst of the Powers' trial, to which there were few if any direct references. However, the U-2 and RB-47 incidents were used in each case to illustrate the need for military vigilance and for Soviet air defense capability. Some like Marshal of Aviation S. Krasovskiy and Colonel-General of Aviation E. Preobrazhenskiy gave these incidents only passing mention. More militant, Colonel-General of Aviation G. Agaltsov warned of aggressive circles in the US who continue to be guided by the doctrine of aviation bombardment with nuclear armaments. Soviet pilot Polyakov's action in shooting down the RB-47

won his praise, and Polyakov was also a model example for Colonel-General of Aviation P.I.Brayko. The enumerating of proud accomplishments, reviewing heroic episodes from recent history as well as examples of Soviet leadership in planes and rockets gave all the articles a confident ring. Their appearance in juxtaposition to the Powers trial press coverage seemed calculated to increase appreciably the impact of the trial reporting.

JOINT ARMY - NAVY - AIR FORCE

10. Military Demobilization: (UNCLASSIFIED) Soviet press states "many hundreds," of soldiers are being demobbed from Army units stationed in Khmelnitsky and being sent to collective and state farms on the virgin lands of Altai and Kazakhstan. Press also states that "thousands of soldiers" are being demobbed in the Carpathian military district and are departing from Vinnitsa, Stanislav, Zhitomir, Rovno and many other points.

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[redacted]

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Robert I. Owen

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First Secretary of Embassy

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